



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2015

Ben Gavelek named new director of communications for ISDA

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, the [Indiana State Department of Agriculture](http://www.isda.in.gov) (ISDA) named Ben Gavelek as the new director of communications.

Prior to joining ISDA, Gavelek began his career in public relations working as a press secretary for the Indiana House of Representatives, Republican Caucus. In that role, he served as the media liaison for eight state lawmakers and was later promoted to the position of deputy communications director.

“We are excited to welcome Ben to our staff,” said ISDA Director Ted McKinney. “As we work to promote Indiana’s robust agriculture industry, his experience in communications and state government will be a valuable addition to our team.”

In his new position, Gavelek will be responsible for the overall management of the ISDA’s Office of Communications and will serve as the principal media contact. He will also help promote and increase public awareness about the agency’s mission which is to support growth in Indiana agriculture by serving as an advocate at the local, state and federal level.

Originally, Gavelek is from Porter County and graduated from Indiana University Northwest with a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice. He currently lives with his wife, Allison, in Avon, Ind.

###

ABOUT ISDA

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) was established as a separate state agency by the Legislature in 2005. The Director is appointed by the Governor and is a member of the Governor’s Cabinet. Administratively, ISDA reports to Lt. Governor Sue Ellspermann, who also serves as Indiana’s Secretary of Agriculture. Major responsibilities include advocacy for Indiana agriculture at the local, state and federal level, managing soil conservation programs, promoting economic development and agricultural innovation, serving as a regulatory ombudsman for agricultural businesses, and licensing grain firms throughout the state.

Media Contact:

Ben Gavelek

Phone: 317.690.3303

Email: bgavelek@isda.in.gov